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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for November 15-17, 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

2. Ekspres, Bolge / Following the bombings in Istanbul on November 15, and the Democratic People's Party (DEHAP) meeting in Adana on November 16, extra precautions were taken by the Adana TNP. Around the U.S. Consulate on Ataturk Caddesi and Bebekli Church in Tepebag District, extra police teams were put in place for maintaining security. Church officials announced that the church would be closed for Sunday services until further notice.

3. Ekspres, Bolge, Evrensel, Milliyet / DEHAP Head Tuncay Bakirhan spoke at a meeting organized by DEHAP on November 16 in Adana. Bakirhan stated that KADEK dissolved itself in order for its members to be able to enter politics legally. Approximately 5000 people (according to Bolge, the number is 3000) attended the meeting. According to Milliyet, members of the crowd beat a policeman who was in civilian clothes, threw stones at the police and broke the windows of parked cars after the meeting. Police kept the group under control by the use of a helicopter.

4. Evrensel, Ozgur Gundem / In Diyarbakir, approximately 15,000 people attended a peace meeting organized by DEHAP. After the meeting, police detained many people who walked towards the city center. The group allegedly, threw stones at the police and destroyed cars.

5. Turkiye / During operations against PKK/KADEK in Gaziantep, security forces detained four people: Sukru Cinar, Bahar Narman, Mehmet Emin Sakar and an unidentified man for sending equipment to the PKK. When the PKK members met the tanker truck that was loaded with the equipment, between Erzin and Dortyol, Hatay province, security forces intervened. Police also detained alleged terrorists Idris Gengec and Halil Sahin.

6. Evrensel / In Tunceli, Sehit Nahit Bulut Police Station was bombed on November 14. Two people were wounded during the attack. Police detained 25 people related with the incident.

ECONOMIC

7. Turkiye, Yeni Safak / David Key, head of the Baku -Tiflis- Ceyhan petroleum pipeline project (BTC), stated that 51% of the project has been completed and that the project provided 1,863 people with jobs.

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